
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



United States Senator for New Hampshire

393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 www.senate.gov/~gregg/

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Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

GREGG JOINS BERLIN MAYOR TO ANNOUNCE \$1.4 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR TWO BERLIN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Senator secures federal monies for drinking water improvements; No. Forest Heritage Park

BERLIN, NH -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today joined Berlin Mayor Bob Danderson to announce that \$1.4 million in federal funding will soon be heading from Washington to Berlin for two projects that will augment the quality of life in the community. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg was able to secure \$1 million for continuation of the upgrades being made to the drinking water infrastructure system and \$400,000 for further development and expansion of the Northern Forest Heritage Park in the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill on the verge of being approved by Congress. The bill is currently being finalized in a joint House/Senate Conference Committee and will soon return to each chamber for final passage. *Detailed information on both projects are provided on the attached sheet.*

Senator Gregg stated, "These federal funds will soon be available to further the aims of these two important projects. The Northern Forest Heritage Park continues to expand and it is recognized as one of the premier locations preserving the unique heritage of the Northern Forest and the traditions for which the region is known. The Park serves as a catalyst to tourism in the area which will lead to increased economic growth. The drinking water infrastructure project continues to ensure that Berlin residents have access to safe and healthy drinking water. This is a necessity for every community and Berlin has done a tremendous job in its upgrade. I would like to thank Mayor Danderson for the excellent work he continues to do for the community."

State Senator John T. Gallus stated, "Senator Gregg continues to be an outstandingly effective advocate for the City of Berlin. Beyond his crucial help to us after the closure of the mills last year, this announcement of one million dollars to continue upgrading our water system is in addition to the \$7.5 million he has already secured for this purpose. Progress in delivering clean and clear drinking water to the homes and businesses of Berlin is due to his efforts and is greatly appreciated. The \$400,000 slated for the Northern Forest Heritage Park is a boon for Berlin's ability to attract growing numbers of heritage tourists to our area and teach the history of the North Woods and its residents' important role in our nation's heritage."

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Northern Forest Heritage Park Executive Director Dave Thurlow stated, “\$400,000 is a considerable sum of money for us. The Park is a small organization, but we have big plans to invest wisely in the Berlin-Gorham region, by honoring the working forest and its heritage. Our planned Center will do just that. Senator Gregg’s economic development efforts are vital to the well being of individuals and communities of New Hampshire, especially in rural sections of the state like the Androscoggin Valley. This is tremendous news.”

Added to the past several years of grants Senator Gregg has secured, this brings the total to \$8.5 million to help Berlin repair and replace water pipes throughout the city. The Senator also helped Berlin obtain a \$1 million Rural Development grant which went into the construction of the Lancaster Street Water Tank, benefitting residential and commercial drinking water, water pressure necessary for fire fighting and connection to the new Berlin State Prison.

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**FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Bill
U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)
Member, Senate Appropriations Committee**

\$1 million – Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements

Berlin has already dramatically improved the quality of water available to the residents and businesses in Berlin with help from federal resources over the last several years. This funding will continue the process of improving the drinking water infrastructure by upgrading drinking water pipes to allow for cleaner water and by reducing leaks and breaks in the pipes.

Contact: Berlin Mayor Bob Danderson (603) 752-7532

\$400,000 – Northern Forest Heritage Park

Following the completion of a site investigation by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the Park can undertake the construction of a 4,000 square-foot wood frame, multi-use structure that will house a visitor's center; a tourist information center for travelers heading north along the Androscoggin River; and a single location where economic development agencies could be located next to one another.

Senator Gregg has previously secured two awards totaling \$900,000 for the Park. The Park's primary focus is to help visitors celebrate the diverse history of the Northern Forest shaped by the heritage of immigrants from many backgrounds who came to settle in northern New Hampshire. The Park, which operates out of the Brown Company House Museum on the Androscoggin, was established in 1994 and displays many aspects of a turn-of-the-century logging village. The Park boasts a blacksmith shop and a 500-seat outdoor Riverside Amphitheater, and is currently nearing completion of a camp store and training a blacksmith apprentice.

Contact: David Thurlow, Executive Director of the Northern Forest Heritage Park, at (603) 752-7202, or visit the Park's website at www.northernforestheritage.org

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